

I'm Sharon Marino; I'm the Project Leader for the Southern New England New York Bight Coastal Program. My office is in Charlestown, Rhode Island and I actually worked for the National Wildlife Refuge System in Region **five** for 10 years before I joined the **Coastal Program** working for **Ecological Services**. I was interested in participating in the **Vision Process** and I was fortunate enough to be selected to be part of one of the core teams, the Relevancy Team, for the **Vision document**. We are facing many new changes, many new challenges in the future and having this vision, having this direction that all Service employees can follow—and our partners—really lays the foundation for adapting to the future and becoming more relevant to the American public, which is really, really critical. I'm so excited for the conference; I hope everybody else is as excited as I am. I think it's going to be amazing, so many partners coming together, so many Fish and Wildlife Service employees all coming together to look ahead and have this vision of the future for the **Refuge System**, for the Fish and Wildlife Service. And I think it's really going to be amazing and there are going to be many opportunities for people that aren't going to the conference to participate via the web for this conference, and also participate moving forward in implementation teams. There's going to be a lot happening over the next year in trying to get this new **vision** underway. And it's a really exciting time for the Fish and Wildlife Service.